

ADD-OK

B.A.S.E

SEPTEMBER, 1987

P.O. Box 33  
Bloomington, Il. 61701

VOL: 6 ISSUE 9

Meeting Location: Bloomington Public Library  
205 E. Olive St., Bloomington, Il.  
Regular Schedule: 2nd Thursday of every month

Next Meeting: SEPTEMBER 10, 1987, Thursday Time 7-9 p.m.

The BLOOMINGTON ATARI SYSTEMS ENTHUSIAST (B.A.S.E.) is a non-profit, independent computer users group not affiliated with ATARI, CORP., 'ATARI', and specific references to products and model numbers are copyrighted by ATARI, CORP. No financial support is received from ATARI, CORP. Membership dues are \$10.00 per year, mostly to cover newsletter expenses.

B.A.S.E. maintains Public Domain Libraries for members in good standing.

B.A.S.E. does not condone or solicit pirating or any illegal use of non-public domain software or hardware.

All original B.A.S.E. material in this newsletter is in the public domain and user group use as long as club and author are credited. All statements in the newsletter are the opinions of the authors and are not necessarily the opinions of the officers or club.

Commercial advertizing will be accepted with prepaid copy. Rates are \$20.00 full page, \$10.00 half page, \$5.00 quarter page, and business cards \$2.50.

Membership advertizing will be accepted for free.

Newsletter articles must be submitted to the editor by the 25th of the month to be included in the next newsletter. Articles received after the 25th will be held for the following newsletter. Articles must be submitted on a disk using Atariwriter or Atariwriter Plus or First Word. Printed articles will receive a free public domain disk of their choice for contributing to the newsletter. You may receive assistance with preparing your article by calling me at 452-1334 evenings or 827-4909 at work.

This newsletter is created with an ATARI 1040ST, FIRST WORD and printed on a STAR NX-10 printer.

#### 1987 Meeting Schedule

B.A.S.E. will end its' traditional 1st Thursday meeting in 1987. We will move to the 2nd Thursday of each month with the exception of October. We will meet on the third Thursday in October.

September--10-Thursday  
October---15-Thursday\*\*\*  
November--12-Thursday  
December--10-Thursday

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### OFFICERS

President: Richard Raper (309)452-1334  
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Treasurer: Larry George 663-4496  
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##### ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

8-bit Librarian: Duane Benjamin 725-3535  
ST Librarian: Nathan Johnson 452-3607  
Hospitality: Barbara Lutz 1-379-3811

##### VOLUNTERS

Editor: Richard Raper 452-1334  
Refreshments: Susan Benjamin 725-3535  
Telecommunication: Marty Erwin 662-1435  
Disk of the Month: Brian Green 662-4077  
Newsletter library: Brian Green 662-4077



## THE PRESIDENTS REPORT

by Richard Raper

In case you haven't heard we are coming back to Normal. Jennifer and I have accepted positions with the new Diamond Star Motor Co. The boxes at our house are piled everywhere but hopefully we will find the floors again.

We have rented the store again at 1202 E. Washington but may not be open until the middle of November because we are both going to Japan for 6 weeks for training. Its too early to tell if the hours will be full time or part time.

The board will need some volunteers to conduct the meetings in October and November so pitch in and get started planning. Since we will be scheduled to work any shift I question whether I can remain the president and newsletter editor of B.A.S.E. If the board does not get any volunteers from the membership then I personally recommend all B.A.S.E. members join the Central Illinois Atari User Group which meets on the first Tuesday of the month to continue your support from Atari users.

BBS Ten Commandments Version 1.1  
(reprinted from the MACE June 1985 newsletter)

1. Thou shalt not overstay thy welcome.
2. Thou shalt not use offensive language.
3. Thou shalt not use this BBS system to engage in or encourage acts of commercial software piracy.
4. Thou shalt not use this system to advertise products not related to personal computing.
5. Thou shalt not have more than one ad online at a time.
6. Thou shalt not use this system to advertise thy business, except by arrangement with the SYSOP.
7. Thou shalt not log on using silly names lest the SYSOP rise up and smite thee.
8. Thou shalt not clutter up the system with trivial messages which are not computer-related.

9. If thou art a new user, thou shalt make every effort to find out how the system works through its built in HELP functions before bothering thy beloved SYSOP.

10. Thou shalt contribute software as well as take it.

Coldstarting Can Help Your Computer Live A Longer Life

by Wayne Habberstad

(Reprinted from the March 1987 LAACE newsletter)

Are you zapping your computer to death? Whenever you turn on your computer, a surge of power shocks its internal components, especially its power supply. While the computer can stand repeated "zaps" over a few years they do eventually do the poor computer in.

Turning on and off a computer is inevitable; but you can minimize it by fooling the computer into thinking it has just been turned on. When an Atari 8 bit computer is turned on it clears all of its RAM memory (except the extra RAM that lies under the ROM in XL/XE computers and the extra RAM in the 130XE) and sets itself up ready to accept programs.

The routine in the Atari's operating system that does this chore, called coldstarting the computer (as opposed to warmstarting which is simply the resetting of the computer, usually by the RESET key) can be called by you from BASIC or DOS when warmstarting the computer is not enough to clear an unwanted program from memory, or the garbage created by it.

To call the routine from BASIC, use this statement: A=USR(58487). When you press the return key the computer will blank out the display and act as though it had just been turned on.

With an XL/XE computer you can coldstart it by first using the statement BYE (or the abbreviation B.) then pressing the RESET key when the self test menu appears. The RESET key coldstarts the computer in this instance because the self test routine had inserted a one into location 580, which is checked when the RESET key is pressed; any other number tells it to coldstart. You can use the POKE statement in BASIC to set location 580: POKE 580,1. Then the RESET key



will coldstart the computer when pressed.

If you are not in BASIC, this is how to coldstart the computer in ATARI DOS: use menu option M (run address), then use \$E477 (the hexadecimal equivalent of 58487) as the address.

Having to clear our old programs, and their results is not the only thing to tempt you into turning off, and on, your computer. Getting boot errors on your screen after you put the wrong disk in the drive may lead you to think that turning off the computer (or the disk drive) is the only way to stop the drive from spinning the disk inside. Pressing the RESET key is not enough as the computer will again uselessly try to boot up with the wrong disk. This is the way around it: hold the START key down and press the RESET key. The computer will think that you want to boot up from a cassette instead of a disk (the beep that you will hear is its signal to you to ready a cassette player). The disk drive will stop spinning the disk. After you replace the disk in the drive press the RESET key. The computer will forget about trying to boot from a cassette and will boot from the disk.

Your Atari is the best 8 bit computer ever made. It deserves to be well taken care of.

#### FOR 130XE OWNERS ONLY

For 130XE owners there is a bonus if they coldstart their computers: programs and data on the ramdisk are safe from the coldstart process as long as there is no RAMDISK.COM on the boot disk. As mentioned earlier the coldstart routine in the operating system does not touch the extra 64k in the 130XE. But the RAMDISK.COM will reformat the ramdisk and wipe out everything on it. As the RAMDISK.COM is needed to set up the ramdisk when the computer is turned on, 130XE owners should keep two copies of their boot disks: one with the RAMDISK.COM to use when turning on their computers, and the other without it to use when merely coldstarting them.

After a 130XE is coldstarted without a RAMDISK.COM on the boot disk, the ramdisk can be read from and written to normally except for one thing: if you try to go to DOS from BASIC then the computer will

attempt to load the DUP.SYS file from Drive 1 instead of from the ramdisk. The way to remedy this is to POKE 5439,66. This will tell the computer to load DUP.SYS from the ramdisk.

Atari and Federated Group Inc.  
submitted by Brian Green

This article by Mark Lewyn appeared in the August 25, 1987 "USA Today" newspaper discussing Atari's latest investment.

#### "Atari buys retail chain"

What do you do if you have lots of computers to sell and not enough store shelves to put them on? If you're Jack Tramiel, you just buy the shelves.

Monday, the man who revived computer and video game maker Atari Corp. said he would buy Federated Group Inc., which owns 67 electronics stores in Kansas, California, Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico, in a deal worth \$67.3 million.

Atari, which fell 3/4 to \$13 1/2 Monday, will buy the 55% stake held by Federated founder Wilfred Schwartz's family and partnership, and will offer \$6.25 a share in cash for the rest. Schwartz will stay as chairman. Federated, which lost \$5.2 million in 1986, closed up 3/8 to \$6 1/8.

The wisdom of Atari spending that kind of money for an electronics chain that now gets only 10% of sales from computers was an open question:

"I don't know if it's the best use (for the money) but it's probably a logical use for it", said analyst Tim Bajarin of Creative Strategies International Inc.

Atari has had fairly good distribution of its ST line of computers in Europe - which accounts for two-thirds of its sales volume - but has been slow to get USA dealers to sign up, in part because the STs are not IBM-compatible.

The deal gives Atari distribution. But some analysts doubt Atari can learn to run stores as well as it has learned to manufacture.

"A company should have a clear idea what business it's in," said Stewart Alsop,



editor of PC Letter, an industry newsletter. "Atari is muddying its own waters."

Perhaps. IBM's retail chain flopped. But Tandy Corp.'s Radio Shack stores gives it PC business an edge.

A possible land mine for Atari is whether existing dealers who now compete with a Federated store will drop Atari rather than help the local competition. In that situation, "I'm not sure I'd want to sell Atari anymore," said Aaron Goldberg of International Data Corp.

September 8-Bit Disk Of The Month  
by Brian Green

September's 8-bit disk of the month features the following programs:

BOWLING.BAS - This BASIC program was downloaded from 6Enie. It's a good 1 or 2 player bowling game.

GR9SHOW.BAS - This utility program displays Graphic 9 picture files. This was downloaded from 6Enie.

MAX.PIC - This is a Graphic 9 picture file of M-m-m-ax Headroom. Use GR9SHOW.BAS to view the file. This file was downloaded from 6Enie.

WOOFWOOF.EXE - This program, downloaded from 6Enie, really went to the dogs. It makes the computer bark like a dog when the keyboard is pressed. Run this program with disabled BASIC.

NEATO.BAS - This is a simple but smooth 3-D graphic demo program.

COSMOS.EXE - This is a fantastic pinball game that was downloaded from 6Enie. It appears to have been made with the Pinball Construction Set. Run this program with disabled BASIC.

Bits and Pieces  
by Brian Green

Well, it seems that our newsletter is read by quite a few user groups across the country. Richard Raper's article on Atari's new marketing strategies was printed in the July/August 1987 issue of the MilAtari Ltd. Edition newsletter, AND the July 1987 Keeping P.A.C.E. newsletter. His article on the FCC's "carrier access charges" was printed in the August 1987 issue of Runes, the Midwest Atari Group Iowa Chapter's newsletter.

In the August 1987 Acorn Kernel newsletter, there is a good article on common questions regarding the 8-bit archive utility programs. These programs are featured on our August 8-bit disk of the month.

In the August 1987 Nybbles & Bytes newsletter, there is an interesting article by Roger Downey talking about the software piracy issue. It discusses whether or not the type-in programs from the magazines can be legally listed on a BBS. Roger raises some very good issues.

In the August 1987 Bay Area Atari Users Group newsletter, there is an article on the cancelled Chicago Atarifest. There are three major rumors that are corrected in the article. It provides some very interesting reading since B.A.S.E. was involved in sponsoring the doomed show.

In the July/August MilAtari Ltd. Edition newsletter, there is an article that all owners of the Atari XM301 modem should read. It warns that this modem could be a time bomb waiting to go off that could damage any or all components of your systems.

That's all for this month. I encourage other B.A.S.E. members to write articles for our newsletter. It is sent to user groups across the country. Who knows, they may print your article in their newsletter? It's a good feeling to see that, and it's a good reflection on B.A.S.E.